



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Lightning Strikes Salt Water Disposal Site, Causes Fire and Spill

BISMARCK, N.D. – On July 7, the North Dakota Department of Health received a report of a spill caused by a lightning strike and subsequent fire at the Helling Alexander SWD#1 salt water disposal site approximately three miles south of Alexander.

The fire caused a failure of the primary containment system. Approximately 649 barrels of oil and 2813 barrels of brine were released. Some of the fluids flowed off the site but were contained before reaching a tributary of Lonesome Creek.

The fire is being allowed to burn itself out and local emergency response personnel are monitoring the fire. A spill response company is on scene working to contain and recover liquids. North Dakota Department of Health personnel are inspecting the site and will work with the company on remediation.

For more information, contact Kris Roberts, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5236 or 701.391.0982.

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